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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/006,324	12/05/2001	Mamdouh Salama	9469.0-01 (1856-19700)	9922

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EXAMINER

PICKARD, ALISON K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3676

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/006,324

**Applicant(s)**

SALAMA, MAMDOUH

**Examiner**

Alison K. Pickard

**Art Unit**

3676

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 and 22-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 17-20, 22, 30 and 31 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 and 23-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>14, 18</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-16 and 23-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldwin (6,042,152) in view of Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (pages 2-5).

Baldwin discloses a composite riser having a dual sealing system, a metal to composite interface (MCI), and a liner assembly. The liner assembly comprises an elastomeric shear ply 20. The dual sealing system comprises two types of seals: a mechanical seal and an elastomeric seal. The two seals are formed between different components of the riser (i.e. between the ring and MCI and between the shear ply and tip). The mechanical seal is formed between mating grooves in a transition ring 24 and the MCI (see Fig. 6, at 34 and col. 8, lines 1-3). The elastomeric seal is formed between an elastomeric tip of the transition ring (e.g. arm 24b or near lead line 24c), which is provided on the MCI. The tip is proximate the interface between the MCI and transition ring. The elastomeric seal is formed when the elastomeric tip and elastomer ply 20 are bonded together (see col. 7, lines 50-58). Both are provided in an uncured state and cure to form the seal. The transition ring 24c is welded (at 38 see col. 8, lines 4-6) to a liner section 20 in the liner assembly to comprise part of a continuous liner section. Internal fluid is prevented from leaking outside the riser by the dual sealing system. Baldwin does not disclose a metal liner assembly. Applicants disclose, on page 4 of the specification, that metal liners are

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known to offer longer life and resistance over elastomer liners. Applicants admit that metal liners are known to be more durable and better suited for composite drilling because they are less likely to be damaged by the tools. Further, Applicants admit that it is known that metal liners offer better resistance to production fluids than elastomer liners. Applicants disclose that metal liner assemblies comprise a metal liner and an elastomeric shear ply. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the liner assembly of Baldwin by making it a metal liner assembly disclosed as prior art by Applicants, to better withstand production fluids and the mechanical tools use in drilling.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 17-20, 22, 30, and 31 are allowed.

***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments filed 2-9-04 have been fully considered (and in view of the interview discussion) but they are not persuasive. It appears that Baldwin still reads on the claims in that Baldwin discloses two distinct types of seals: a mechanical seal and an elastomeric seal. The two seals are also formed between different components as stated in the rejection above. It appears (as discussed in previous interview) that one of the main differences between Applicant's invention and that of Baldwin is the elastomeric tip is a separate/different element from the metal transition ring. However, the claim language (of the rejected claims) still does not distinguish from Baldwin. Further, Pierce (4,634,314) in view of Baldwin would also read on at least claims 1 and 8 by disclosing two separate, distinct seals (i.e. the o-ring of Pierce at 88 and the ring seal of Baldwin 24). It appears claims 4 and 12 may be allowable if the language was

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changed to reflect the tip was between the interface and transition ring; i.e. to reflect that the transition ring and tip have to be different elements.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alison K. Pickard whose telephone number is 703-305-0882. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (10-7:30), with alternate Friday's off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703-308-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Alison K. Pickard  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3676

AP